

Message Text

SECRET

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61-S

ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 CEQ-02

COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

OMB-01 OIC-04 DRC-01 /292 W
----- 130777

R 300121Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5646

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY SUVA

S E C R E T CARACAS 8493

FROM USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: ARCHIPELAGO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES

REF: STATE 185135

1. IN RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL US REP.
MOORE APPROACHED PHILIPPINE REP. YANGO TO EXPLORE
POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUATION OF ARCHIPELAGO DISCUSSIONS.
MOORE MADE POINT THAT DESPITE DISAPPOINTMENT ON
SUBSTANCE OF PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO STATEMENT US
HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY STRONG SUGGESTIONS IN
STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING ISSUES WITH
INTERESTED PARTIES. YANGO INDICATED MEETING NEXT DAY TO
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DISCUSS ISSUE OF FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL.

2. AT MEETING NEXT DAY AUGUST 28 YANGO AND TEAM OF FOUR OTHER MEMBERS PHIL LOS DEL INDICATED THEY FELT CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE USEFUL AND WOULD REPORT US INTEREST IN CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS TO MANILA. YANGO SUGGESTED EITHER DISCUSSIONS WITH MOORE IN NEW YORK LATE IN GA SESSION (HE INDICATED UNDER SECRETARY INGLES WOULD BE PRESENT ON THAT OCCASION) OR POSSIBLY A LATER DECEMBER-FEBRUARY VISIT TO MANILA OR BOTH MIGHT BE USEFUL AND HE WOULD PUT ISSUE TO MANILA. BOTH SIDES AGREED DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONTINUED ONLY IF THERE WAS A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT. IT WAS LEFT THAT YANGO WOULD CONTACT MOORE LATER IN YEAR TO GIVE PHILIPPINE RESPONSE BUT INDICATED SOME PRODDING ON ISSUE AFTER A FEW WEEKS MIGHT BE USEFUL.

3. ON SUBSTANCE YANGO INDICATED PHILIPPINE DEL FELT 3 ISSUES MUST BE RESOLVED IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON ARCHIPELAGO:

A. OBJECTIVE DEFINITION (NO SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEM INDICATED HERE)

2. TRANSIT REGIME THROUGH ARCHIPELAGO

C. CONCERN OF NEIGHBORING STATES OF MALAYSIA, THAILAND AND SINGAPORE WITH RESPECT TO TRADITIONAL FISHING AND OTHER USES OF AREA (IT WAS INDICATED ASEAN MAY NEED TO CONSIDER THIS ISSUE).

4. MOORE INDICATED THAT US WAS NOW CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING LENGTH OF CLOSING LINE--1 PERCENT EXCEPTION IN CONTEXT OF UPCOMING BAHAMAS DISCUSSION AND THAT IF LINE EXTENDED IT WAS BECAUSE ISSUE OF MORO GULF PROBLEM ALSO OF CONCERN TO US AND WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. MOORE FURTHER INDICATED IMPORTANCE OF ACCEPANCE OF TRANSIT REGIME AND SUPPORT ON STRAITS OBJECTIVES AS VITAL PART OF US PROPOSAL.

5. COMMENT: PHIL LOS DELEGATION SEEMED EAGER TO HOLD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH US ON ARCHIPELAGO ISSUES AND SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER MEETINGS BETWEEN LOS TEAM IN NEW YORK OR MANILA. THEY ALSO SEEMED TO HAVE A GENUINE INTEREST IN EXPLORING AND FINALIZING AN AGREEMENT BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION, ALTHOUGH IT WAS CLEAR THIS WAS AN ISSUE ON WHICH ANY NEW INSTRUCTIONS WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM MANILA. IT WAS ALSO CLEAR THAT
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THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT DEFINITIONAL PROBLEMS OUTSTANDING BETWEEN US AND PHILS. ON DEFINITION OF ARCHIPELAGO EXCEPT LENGTH OF LINE CLOSING MORE GULF. ON THIS ISSUE THEY WERE CLEARLY INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN LENGTH OF LINE WITHIN 1 PERCENT EXCEPTION. SINCE THEY WOULD HAVE LEARNED OF INCREASE FROM BAHAMAS IN ANY EVENT IT WAS FELT PREFERABLE TO POINT OUT REASON FOR INCREASE ALSO RELATED TO MORO GULF PROBLEM.

6. IF DEPT. CONCURS, DEL SUGGESTS EMBASSY RAISE IN LOW KEY
MANNER, QUESTION OF FURTHER TALKS IF NO WORD IS HEARD WITHIN
SEVERAL WEKS.
STEVENSON

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NNN

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